

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Further Details on the Recent Disorders	DATE DISTR.	23 June 1953	
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	5	
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES		

BY CABLE

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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1. During the night of 17 June 1953 a great number of tanks moved from the direction of Johannisthal via Oberschoeneweide toward Karlshorst.
2. On 19 June, T-34 tanks were employed on each street between the Stettiner Bahnhof and Bornholmer Strasse, immediately behind ^{the} sector boundary. At 3:30 P.M. on 19 June T-34 tanks with guards insignia and KVP units were observed on Wolliner Strasse. Six T-34 tanks were observed on Bernauer Strasse, Ruppiner Strasse, Brunnenstrasse, and Strelitzer Strasse. In the afternoon on 19 June, Gleimstrasse and Wollankstrasse were blocked by T-34 tanks and medium AT guns.
3. In the afternoon of 19 June groups of KVP, without heavy weapons, were observed near the Oberbaumbruecke, on Koepenicker Strasse, and on Treptower Chaussee.
4. On 19 June one third of the employees living in the Soviet sector failed to report for duty in a West Berlin plant. A similar situation was reported from other firms.
5. On 18 June and prior to 11:00 P.M. on 19 June there were no refugees from the Russian zone. Only participants in the riot of 17 June who could not return

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home reported for reception at West Berlin refugee offices.

6. A security strip, 500 meters wide, was established along the boundary between West and East Berlin, which could not be entered because the VP and the Russians opened fire against persons who approached. No new refugees have arrived in West Berlin since 17 June.
7. Brunnenstrasse, Invalidenstrasse, and Prinzenstrasse were scheduled to be opened from six o'clock in the morning to 9:00 P.M. on 19 June. From noon on 19 June to 10:00 P.M. on 20 June the sector boundary in the Hennigsdorf-Frohnau area was completely blocked.
8. At 1:00 P.M. on 19 June four T-34 tanks one AT gun, and one mortar were observed at the intersection of Friedrichstrasse and Zimmerstrasse, with Soviet infantry stationed 200 meters to the rear. There were three T-34 tanks near the Wertheim department store, and AT guns and mortars with an advanced observation post on Leipziger Platz; one T-34 tank on Bethaniendamm, west of the church on Mariannen Platz, backed by Soviet soldiers in foxholes; machine-gun emplacements on Prinz Albrecht Strasse. No traffic crossed the sector boundary in the Kreuzberg-Tiergarten area on 19 June.
9. Soviet tanks moved through Stahnsdorf to Berlin on 17 June.
10. Prior to 3:30 P.M. on 19 June, T-34 tanks, 4 AT guns, and some motor vehicles and a machine gun of the Soviet army were observed in the area of Wilhelmstrasse, Prinz Albrecht Strasse, Zimmerstrasse, and Friedrichstrasse.
11. A KVP man with a Saxon accent stated that he had arrived in Berlin on 18 June and that his unit had been told their transfer was made necessary by the preparations of the U.S. Forces to invade East Berlin.
12. From 16 to 19 June the Gross Glienicke area was quite calm. The bus lines have been stopped since 17 June. Free circulation has not been restricted in the surroundings of the locality beyond the curfew hours.
13. The sector boundary area from Jerusalemer Kirche to Sankt Thomas Kirche was blocked by ordinary police only for three hours in the morning of 19 June. Three T-34 tanks, one model BA-64 armored scout car, and 12 Soviet soldiers were seen near the Michael Kirche. The trade-union house was strongly occupied by ordinary police. From 9:30 A.M. to 1:40 P.M. on 19 June the sector boundary in the Gleisdreieck-Jerusalemer Kirche area was blocked by ordinary police who were supported by one or two T-34 tanks on each street.

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14. Up to 4:00 P.M. on 19 June the sector boundary from Moritz Platz to the Potsdamer Platz area was blocked by ordinary police only. KVP personnel were seen only on Potsdamer Platz. The Soviet troops had retired about 300 meters on streets leading to West Berlin. A VP Kommissar on Kochstrasse stated that the VP expected the road blocks to be discontinued within two days. Street cars circulated at long intervals in the Soviet sector, and there was little bicycle and pedestrian traffic.
15. At 8:30 A.M. on 17 June four T-34 tanks, four armored personnel carriers, and three trucks occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying field equipment were observed moving on Leipziger Strasse in Potsdam and proceeding toward Berlin. At 9:30 A.M. on 18 June about 80 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets and carrying field equipment marched from the direction of Potsdam toward Berlin. From 16 to 19 June there were no demonstrations but only discussion groups observed in Potsdam, where martial law was declared nevertheless on 17 June with a curfew from 8:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. Irregular steam-train traffic was observed from Potsdam to Berlin via the Aussemring. On 19 and 20 June VP control posts permitted passage over the Glienicke Brücke, and restricted their control activity to the inspection of East German identification cards.
16. It was alleged by a VP Senior Lieutenant that the repressive measures were scheduled for relaxation on 22 June.
17. The barracks on Elsenstrasse in Treptow were occupied to capacity by a KVP unit, allegedly from Saxony, between 4:00 and 6:00 P.M. on 19 June. No heavy weapons were seen. No Soviet troops were seen in Treptow on 19 June. The Hausobleute were ordered to report up to the evening of 19 June, persons absent from home.
18. In the morning of 20 June the crossing point Prinzenstrasse was occupied by 10 ordinary policemen and two KVP's. Pedestrians had their identity cards checked; then they were led into buildings located on Dresdener Strasse about 250 meters from the crossing point. Only women appeared to be released and allowed to proceed.
19. On 18-19 June source observed tank units assembled on Hauptstrasse, Koepenicker Chaussee, and Rummelsburger Strasse near Wuhlheide from the Rummelsburg RR station to Ostend Gestell on Weisskopf Strasse. Tanks were parked on both sides of the streets in the factory areas and parks. Eight mixed units consisting of

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- T-34 tanks, JS-3 tanks, SU-85 guns, trucks with equipment, field kitchens, radio trucks, amphibious trucks, and pontoons were observed. Forty JS-3 tanks were counted.
20. In the morning on 20 June 15 KVP's were seen at Potsdamer Platz and a like number near Brandenburger Tor; no tanks or AT guns observed. There were three machine-gun emplacements in ruined buildings on Unter den Linden. Small numbers of tanks and members of the KVP were seen at various spots scattered throughout East Berlin.
21. Prior to 1:00 P.M. on 20 June intensive traffic in both directions was observed on the Glienicke Bruecke. No difficulties or objections by VPS were observed, except that identity cards were checked and women's handbags searched.
22. From 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on 18 and 19 June, passage from West to East Berlin was prohibited. Each street in the Stettiner Bahnhof area was secured by two T-34 tanks and AT guns. The Bernauer Strasse subway station seemed to be open.
23. On 17 June the situation in Potsdam was calm except for some scuffles. Most residents employed in Berlin could not report for duty. A small number of freight trains moved on the outer ring via Genshagener Heide, Saarmund, and Ostbahnhof, which required three hours. During the night of 17 June Soviet troops with T-34 tanks and armored scout cars left the Nedlitzer Kasernen in Potsdam toward East Berlin.
24. On 20 June the opinion was expressed by SED functionaries that it had been intended to meet the wishes of the working class, but that the events of 17 June had canceled these intentions and more rigorous measures could now be expected.
25. The Bauunion Potsdam was working normally, while all branches of the Bauunionen Potsdam and Berlin, e.g. Fuerstenberg and Ludwigsfelde, had not yet resumed work.
26. On 19 June the Gransee-Berlin road was blocked because of the movements of motorized columns. Tank movements were observed in Leipzig on 17 June.
27. On 20 June the zonal boundary near Lichtenrade was still sealed.
28. Prior to the evening of 20 June the Russians allowed no West Berlin doctors or medical personnel employed in East Berlin to cross the sector boundary, which continued to be completely sealed off. Points so far considered weak for crossing from West Berlin to the Russian Zone are now more intensively sealed off, mainly by the KVP. Soviet troops with heavy weapons retired from the field of

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of view near the sector boundary, but were concentrated on streets which would not be observed from the West. Only the German police remained immediately near the boundary. Since 20 June mail has again been exchanged between West and East Berlin.

29. Civilians and long-distance drivers stated that on 16 June the VP was forced by rioters in Magdeburg to open the prisons. On 17 June interzonal traffic on the Helmstedt-Berlin Autobahn was not hindered; indeed, strikingly careless controls prevailed. At noon on 17 June, 20 tanks moved on the Autobahn east of Magdeburg towards Magdeburg. Autobahn traffic was interrupted only from three to five in the morning on 18 June. Riots occurred in Halle, Leuna, and Leipzig. At 2:00 A.M. on 19 June three columns of medium AA guns moved on the Magdeburg Autobahn toward the west. On 17 June interzonal traffic on the Topen-Berlin Autobahn was unhindered; there were very careless controls, and no military traffic was observed. On 18 June traffic was interrupted for two hours in the afternoon.
30. A railroad man from Brandenburg reported that by the afternoon of 19 June rail traffic in the Russian zone was normal again. The situation in Brandenburg was allegedly like that in East Berlin, and a great number of political prisoners was liberated.
31. Prior to 16 June the Pasewalk post was occupied to capacity by the KVP. No special activity was observed. However, on 15 June RR cars were assembled for KVP shipments at the Weisswasser station. Entrainment was scheduled for the night of 15 June.
32. From 16-20 June all plants except the railroad were on strike in the Halberstadt area. Work was partly resumed, without any easing of the tenseness, on 20 June.

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Comment: [] elements of the 12th Guards Tank Division may have been employed in the northern section of Berlin. This assumption is supported by the blocking of the Gransee-Berlin road because of troop movements on 19 June.

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Influence of Semenov	DATE DISTR.	24 June 1953	
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	1	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.		25X1
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- 25X1 1. Deputy Minister President Otto Nuschke, who was released by the authorities in West Berlin on 19 June 1953 and returned to the Russian sector, alleges that Ambassador V.S. Semenov had instructions from Moscow for a change in the political policy in East Germany. Semenov has indicated that additional new directives are in existence. Nuschke believes that the reunification of Germany on a democratic -- not a Communist -- basis can be expected in the near future.¹
2. According to Nuschke, President Wilhelm Pieck and his daughter are in a sanatorium. Former Foreign Minister Georg Dertinger is in prison, because it had been discovered that he was making preparations to flee.
3. The Ministry of State Security received its orders during the recent disturbances exclusively from Semenov, and Minister Wilhelm Zaisser is immediately subordinate to Semenov. No East German authorities have been allowed to issue any independent orders.
4. Nuschke has been temporarily arrested on a charge of high treason.²
- 25X1 1. Comment: It is believed that Semenov's course, characterized by a semblance of true concessions, will not be substantially altered by the Soviet reaction to the Berlin riots.
- 25X1 2. Comment: Nuschke appeared to be lacking in confidence and afraid of Walter Ulbricht. He dared not admit that he preferred to remain in West Berlin.

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	NDP Comment on Demonstrations	DATE DISTR.	24 June 1953
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1. At a press conference in East Berlin on 6 June 1953, instructions were given that the general line of the "new course" must be followed without hesitation. Consequently it is believed that the demonstrations of 16-17 June were at first tolerated by the authorities in order to give expression to democratic freedom in accordance with the new line.
2. At the beginning the demonstrations were not interfered with by the "People's Police"; on the contrary, they were guided by the police according to preconceived objectives. Only at a later stage was control lost by the government.

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